



# NATICK

## Middlesex County



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## NARRATIVE

### **Narrative**

The Town of Natick is a suburban industrial center located on the upper basin of the Charles and Concord Rivers with an extensive complex of ponds. The town was from earliest Colonial days a prime target for development, possessing as it did good agricultural land, fish runs and water power. Established in 1650 on the Charles River, Natick had the first and the largest Indian praying town in the colonies, one that became a model for all other attempts to inculcate European standards into Indians. John Eliot, the great missionary, secured a charter of 6,000 acres for the Indians and converted them to Christianity. Unfortunately, Natick's Indian population was forcibly resettled on Deer Island during the King Philip's war and essentially never returned.

In Colonial days, Natick was an agricultural community with some orchards and some lumbering. Grist and sawmills were established and Indian ownership and control gave way to white dominance between 1676 and 1776. Local tradition claims that several loads of Natick men shipped out to the California gold rush in 1849 and 1850, returning with enough capital to start independent businesses in the town. The shoe industry dominated the community by the early 19th century, with the first shoe sole manufacturer established in 1827 and shoes shipped to the southern and western markets by 1830. The town's products, including baseballs manufactured in Natick, were shipped to Boston on the Boston and Worcester Railroad. The town saw rapid growth including an Irish, English, Nova Scotian, Italian and Armenian immigrant population which came to take jobs in the shoe plants and by the 1880's, Natick was the third largest shoe production community in the country.

In modern times, Natick has become an industrial Boston-oriented suburban community with heavy strip development on Route 9.

(Seal supplied by community. Narrative based on information provided by the Massachusetts Historical Commission)



# GEOGRAPHY

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## Location

Eastern Massachusetts, bordered by Framingham on the west, Wayland and Weston on the north, Wellesley and Dover on the east, and Dover and Sherborn on the south. Natick is 18 miles southwest of Boston; 25 miles east of Worcester; 35 miles north of Providence, Rhode Island; and about 201 miles from New York City.

**Total Area:** 16.06 sq. miles

**Land Area:** 15.09 sq. miles

**Population:** 30,510

**Density:** 2,022 per sq. mile

## Climate

(National Climatic Data Center)

(Framingham Station)

Normal temperature in January.....24.7°F

Normal temperature in July.....72.9°F

Normal annual precipitation.....44.9"

## U.S.G.S. Topographical Plates

Natick, Framingham, Medfield

## Regional Planning Agency

Metropolitan Area Planning Council

## Metropolitan Statistical Area

(1993 Definition)

Boston



# GOVERNMENT

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## Municipal Offices

Main Number: (508) 651-7230

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

## Form of Government

Board of Selectmen

Town Administrator

Representative Town Meeting

## Year Incorporated

As a town: 1781

## Registered Voters (Secretary of State 1994)

	Number	%	
Total Registered	19,287		
Democrats	6,641	34.4	%
Republicans	2,722	14.1	%
Other parties	6	0.0	%
Unenrolled Voters	9,918	51.4	%

## Legislators

[Senators and Representatives by City and Town](#)



# DEMOGRAPHICS

**Table DP-1. Profile of General Demographic Characteristics: 2000**

Geographic Area: Natick town, Middlesex County, Massachusetts

[For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see text]

Subject	Number	Percent	Subject	Number	Percent
Total population.....	32,170	100.0	<b>HISPANIC OR LATINO AND RACE</b>		
<b>SEX AND AGE</b>			Total population.....	32,170	100.0
Male.....	15,216	47.3	Hispanic or Latino (of any race).....	635	2.0
Female.....	16,954	52.7	Mexican.....	103	0.3
Under 5 years.....	2,370	7.4	Puerto Rican.....	159	0.5
5 to 9 years.....	2,124	6.6	Cuban.....	47	0.1
10 to 14 years.....	1,903	5.9	Other Hispanic or Latino.....	326	1.0
15 to 19 years.....	1,421	4.4	Not Hispanic or Latino.....	31,535	98.0
20 to 24 years.....	1,219	3.8	White alone.....	29,208	90.8
25 to 34 years.....	4,981	15.5	<b>RELATIONSHIP</b>		
35 to 44 years.....	6,058	18.8	Total population.....	32,170	100.0
45 to 54 years.....	4,532	14.1	In households.....	31,630	98.3
55 to 59 years.....	1,619	5.0	Householder.....	13,080	40.7
60 to 64 years.....	1,395	4.1	Spouse.....	7,131	22.2
65 to 74 years.....	2,350	7.3	Child.....	9,102	28.3
75 to 84 years.....	1,650	5.1	Own child under 18 years.....	7,083	22.0
85 years and over.....	608	1.9	Other relatives.....	979	3.0
Median age (years).....	38.2	(X)	Under 18 years.....	250	0.8
18 years and over.....	24,769	77.0	Nonrelatives.....	1,338	4.2
Male.....	11,402	35.4	Unmarried partner.....	556	1.7
Female.....	13,367	41.6	In group quarters.....	540	1.7
21 years and over.....	24,166	75.1	Institutionalized population.....	431	1.3
62 years and over.....	5,384	16.7	Noninstitutionalized population.....	109	0.3
65 years and over.....	4,608	14.3	<b>HOUSEHOLD BY TYPE</b>		
Male.....	1,807	5.6	Total households.....	13,080	100.0
Female.....	2,801	8.7	Family households (families).....	8,532	65.2
<b>RACE</b>			With own children under 18 years.....	3,958	30.3
One race.....	31,667	98.4	Married-couple family.....	7,131	54.5
White.....	29,602	92.0	With own children under 18 years.....	3,329	25.5
Black or African American.....	525	1.6	Female householder, no husband present.....	1,072	8.2
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	34	0.1	With own children under 18 years.....	512	3.9
Asian.....	1,242	3.9	Nonfamily households.....	4,548	34.8
Asian Indian.....	378	1.2	Householder living alone.....	3,697	28.3
Chinese.....	546	1.7	Householder 65 years and over.....	1,284	9.8
Filipino.....	46	0.1	Households with individuals under 18 years.....	4,144	31.7
Japanese.....	65	0.2	Households with individuals 65 years and over.....	3,141	24.0
Korean.....	66	0.2	Average household size.....	2.42	(X)
Vietnamese.....	53	0.2	Average family size.....	3.02	(X)
Other Asian <sup>1</sup> .....	88	0.3	<b>HOUSING OCCUPANCY</b>		
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	17	0.1	Total housing units.....	13,368	100.0
Native Hawaiian.....	4	-	Occupied housing units.....	13,080	97.8
Guamanian or Chamorro.....	4	-	Vacant housing units.....	288	2.2
Samoa.....	2	-	For seasonal, recreational, or		
Other Pacific Islander <sup>2</sup> .....	7	-	occasional use.....	31	0.2
Some other race.....	247	0.8	Homeowner vacancy rate (percent).....	0.4	(X)
Two or more races.....	503	1.6	Rental vacancy rate (percent).....	2.6	(X)
<i>Race alone or in combination with one</i>			<b>HOUSING TENURE</b>		
<i>or more other races: <sup>3</sup></i>			Occupied housing units.....	13,080	100.0
White.....	30,046	93.4	Owner-occupied housing units.....	9,306	71.1
Black or African American.....	660	2.1	Renter-occupied housing units.....	3,774	28.9
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	131	0.4	Average household size of owner-occupied units.....	2.65	(X)
Asian.....	1,408	4.4	Average household size of renter-occupied units.....	1.84	(X)
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	29	0.1			
Some other race.....	442	1.4			

- Represents zero or rounds to zero. (X) Not applicable.

<sup>1</sup> Other Asian alone, or two or more Asian categories.

<sup>2</sup> Other Pacific Islander alone, or two or more Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander categories.

<sup>3</sup> In combination with one or more of the other races listed. The six numbers may add to more than the total population and the six percentages may add to more than 100 percent because individuals may report more than one race.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000.



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# HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS

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**Home Sales** (Banker & Tradesman) -

[Town Stats - Free market Statistics](#)

**Subsidized Housing Units** (DHCD 1998)

[DHCD Subsidized Housing Inventory](#)

Subsidized Housing Units: The number of housing units which count toward the municipality's 10% goal for low- and moderate-income housing. It includes both subsidized affordable units and market rate units in certain eligible subsidized developments.

**Public Housing Units** (DHCD 1999)

Conventional State:	422
Conventional Federal:	0

**Rental Assistance**(DHCD 1999)

State (MRVP:	8
Federal (Section 8):	102



# TRANSPORTATION

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## TRANSPORTATION AND ACCESS

Natick is situated in the Greater Boston Area, which has excellent rail, air, and highway facilities. State Route 128 and Interstate Route 495 divide the region into inner and outer zones, which are connected by numerous "spokes" providing direct access to the airport, port, and intermodal facilities of Boston.

### Major Highways

Principal highways are the Massachusetts Turnpike (Interstate Route 90), and State Routes 9 (the Worcester Turnpike), 16, 27, and 135.

### Rail

Commuter service to Back Bay Station and South Station, Boston, is available from Natick (travel time to BBS:33-36 min; no MBTA parking) and West Natick (travel time 38-41 min.; 163 MBTA spaces). Conrail services a freight rail line through Natick. Contact number: (617) 783-6222

### Bus

Natick is a member of the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA) which provides THE RIDE, a paratransit service for the elderly and disabled. Natick Neighborhood Bus provides service within the town and to Framingham Shoppers World.

### Other

The Norwood Memorial Airport, a Reliever (RL) facility, is easily accessible. It has 2 asphalt runways 4,001'x 150' and 4,007'x 150'. Instrument approaches available: Non-precision.



# CULTURE AND RECREATION

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## LIBRARIES

[Board of Library Commissioners On-line Library Catalog](#)

## MUSEUMS

(American Association of Museums)

Historical, Natural History & Library Society of Natick  
58 Eliot Street  
(617) 235-6015

## RECREATION

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

**Recreational Facilities** (Recreational sites and activities)

[Department of Environmental Management Recreation Section](#)



# MISCELLANEOUS

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## HEALTH FACILITIES

(Dept. of Public Health 1992)

### Hospitals

Metrowest Leonard Morse Campus

### Long Term Care

Brittany Convalescent Home

Mary Ann Morse Nursing Home, Inc

Riverbend Convalescent Center

### Hospices

None

### Rest Homes

Allen House Retirement Residence

Nims Rest Home

### UTILITIES

[Telephone Numbers for Public Utilities](#)



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NOTE: The COMMUNITY PROFILE draws information from a diversity of sources. The main source of information is listed under each section. In some instances comments submitted by the municipality were incorporated to correct and/or enhance the information obtained from the main source. However, no changes were made to those data bases which must be consistent throughout the state. DHCD has made efforts to ensure the accuracy of all data in the COMMUNITY PROFILES, but cannot take responsibility for any consequences arising from the use of the information contained in this document.